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10,000 of the population, two persons died in 1888 of fever, and six of diarrhœa. The corresponding rates in the 29 largest provincial towns of France averaged 6 and 23 respectively, or three times as much fever and nearly four times as much diarrhœa as in England. In Marseilles they were 10 and 30 respectively, in Havre 26 and 30, in Lorient 28 and 4, in Rouen 8 and 74, in Cherbourg 24 and 19, and in Brest 11 and 20.

MULHALL ON STATISTICAL COMPUTATIONS.

In an article on *The Study of Statistics*, published in the *Contemporary Review*, October, 1890, Mr. Michael G. Mulhall finally throws light upon some of his statistical methods which have long puzzled students endeavoring to authenticate his conclusions. He devotes one section to what he terms Speculative Statistics in the following manner: —

"These come under Jevons' definition, 'occupying the debatable ground between ascertained fact and reasonable conjecture.' According to the official school they are not statistics at all, but guesses, more or less accurate, and of no scientific value whatever.

"Nevertheless, they constitute a very high order of statistics, and are by no means of that vague and uncertain character which opponents insinuate. Let us give a few illustrations. Some one inquires: 'What are the numbers of Anglicans, Roman Catholics, etc., in England?' The official statist replies: 'It is not known, because the census takes no cognizance of creeds.' But I answer: 'We know perfectly well, for the Registrar-General's returns shows that 72 per cent of the marriages are performed in the Church of England, 4 per cent in Catholic Churches, and 24 per cent among Dissenters.' Somebody else asks: 'What is the consumption of eggs in the United Kingdom?' The official statist replies: 'We can tell you the number imported, but not the home production.' And I answer: 'We have 20 million hens, which lay usually 90 eggs each per annum, from which, deducting 10 for hatching, we have 1600 millions home product, and 1100 millions imported last year: in all, about 2700 millions, or 73 per inhabitant.' A third person asks: 'What is the consumption of meat in the United Kingdom yearly?' The official statist replies: 'Unscrupulous persons may make a guess, but we really don't know.' I reply: ‘The consumption can be ascertained to 1 lb. per inhabitant, by the scale already given in my observations on food-supply.' A fourth inquires: ‘What is the value of shipping and merchandise lost yearly at sea?' The official statist says: ‘Heaven only knows.' And I reply as follows: ‘The insurance agencies charge $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; hence, the losses must average about 1 per cent. The shipping in 1883 was 21,600,000 tons, and the merchandise carried over sea 153,000,000 tons. The loss was therefore: —

216,000	tons shipping, value	£2,400,000
1,520,000	“ merchandise	27,400,000
	Total	£29,800,000'

The value of merchandise was £18 per ton, since that was the average in 1883 obtained by dividing the imports of all nations by the tonnage of entries. A fifth asks: ‘What is the value of British manufactures?' To which the official statist replies: ‘You might as well ask how many gallons of water are in the Atlantic Ocean.' And I reply in the way already shown, treating of manufacturing statistics, in which the hardware manufactures appear to reach 154 millions sterling per annum, and textiles by multiplying the value of fibre by two and a half. A sixth inquires: ‘What are the annual earnings of the British nation?' And the official statist replies: ‘These are matters beyond the reach of mortal ken, unknown even to experts such as we.' And I reply briefly as follows: ‘The earnings are easily ascertained by summing up the following: —

1. The rent of houses and lands, or rental valuation.
2. The value of food consumed in the year.
3. The value of cotton, woollen, linen, etc., goods consumed.
4. The cost of fuel, gas, and kerosene.
5. The amount paid for transport, say double the railway earnings.
6. The sums expended in national and local taxes.
7. Three per cent on the above gross sum, for learned professions.
8. The annual accumulation of wealth.

These make up 1260 millions sterling.'

“A ninth person asks: ‘What is the wealth of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States?' The official statist replies as before: ‘There are some things forbidden for man to weigh or estimate, and this is one.' And I answer: ‘Public wealth consists of ten items, all of which can be measured to a nicety, except one, the value of public works. Land, for example, is worth thirty times the assessed annual rental valuation. Houses are worth eighteen times the rental. Furniture (according to insurance agents) is always worth half the value of the house. Cattle, railways, and shipping offer no difficulty. Merchandise may be taken at six months' imports and exports; and as for public buildings and works, we find churches cost £10,000 each, schools £1000, and high-roads £500 per mile.' The values thus summed up show: —

United States, ...	13,600	millions sterling.
United Kingdom, ...	9,600	"
France, ...	9,100	"

MORTALITY VS. IMMORTALITY.

In an article with the above heading the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* justly criticises certain current methods of statistical reasoning. Parts of the article are given below.

"The Supervising Surgeon-General of the United States Marine Hospital Service in a recent weekly abstract of sanitary reports presents the following refreshing bit of information in the shape of a quotation from the *Monthly Bulletin of the State Board of Health of Iowa*, for June, 1870.

> 'In 1880 the annual death-rate of Iowa was 16 per 1,000 of the living population. In 1885, with an increase of population of 225,297, the annual death-rate was 4.5 per 1,000 of the population. In 1890, with an estimated population of 2,193,477, an increase of 340,564, the annual death-rate is estimated at a fraction over 4 per 1,000. In 1883 it was only 3.7 per 1,000 of the population.
>
> 'The records show that fully 70 per cent of the total deaths in 1880–81–82 were caused by contagious, and therefore preventable, diseases. It was not till 1883 that the work of the State Board of Health began to be realized. The saving of lives, therefore, through the sanitary and protective measures of the State Board is a record to be proud of. It is a record worthy the consideration of every thoughtful mind.'

"In the original report, from which the above statement is quoted, the following data are also printed: —